

[View as Webpage](#) | [Forward to a colleague](#)

**PHX WATER SMART**



## HELLO FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION (ESD) AND HAPPY FALL/WINTER 2022

The Environmental Services Division (ESD) ensures that City water and wastewater facilities protect public health and the environment by maintaining compliance with environmental laws, and by providing high-quality and reliable services to the Department, City staff, and the public.

ESD consists of various sections:

**BUSINESS OPERATIONS:** Administrative, community outreach, laboratory safety, and environmental training coordination.

**COMPLIANCE:** Air, hazardous material, wastewater, and water regulatory compliance.

**LABORATORY:** Analytical testing of water and wastewater. Licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and certified by The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP).

**MONITORING:** Monitoring and sampling of water and wastewater accredited by The National Environmental Field Accreditation Program.

**POLLUTION, PREVENTION & PERMITTING:** Commercial, Industrial Pretreatment, and Stormwater programs conduct inspections, prevention, permitting, and sampling.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:** Quality assurance, compliance and monitoring.

**SAFETY:** Safety oversight and training for all Water Services Department employees.

---

## DON'T FOG UP YOUR HOLIDAY

Most sewer blockages are caused by a buildup of **FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG), WIPES, OR OTHER DEBRIS**. Sewer blockages can cause raw sewage to back up into homes, apartments, or businesses, which can cause property damage and costly clean-up expenses for the property owner. Blockages can also cause sewage to overflow onto private property or the street and create a public health hazard.

### How you can help prevent FOG disasters:

- Don't put fats, oil, grease, or greasy food down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Mix cooking oils with an absorbent material such as coffee grounds, place in a lidded container, and dispose of in a trash receptacle.

- If you're soaking a greasy pan, first pour off the grease into a container. Then place paper towels over the drain basket to catch grease/oil and food as you pour the soaking water down the drain.
- Deep fat fryers for turkeys leave a large amount of oil. Solidify the grease by mixing it with an absorbent material such as cat litter.
- Or, soak up excess oil with newspaper and then place it in the trash.

To learn more, visit the Commercial Inspection and FOG program webpage at [phoenix.gov/FOG](https://phoenix.gov/FOG).



## **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE POLLUTION**

Trash on the streets has always been an issue in Phoenix. However, most people don't realize that trash on the streets and sidewalks usually ends up in our rivers and streams. Trash ends up in storm drain catchments and is washed downstream during storm events. Last year, the City undertook a study to evaluate trash capture.

As a result, a trash net was installed in an outfall drains a large portion of downtown, from 1-10 to the Salt River between Central and 7th Avenues. During a single storm event that passed through the valley, the net ended up capturing over 250 pounds of trash!

This year, three trash capture devices were installed at Rio Salado Park in mid-summer. In the first several weeks, the three devices managed to capture almost 1,200 pounds of trash, including nearly 100 pounds of recyclable materials. Remember to put trash and recyclables in their proper place.



## **HELP PREVENT "POO-LLUTION"**

The City of Phoenix Environmental Services Division is asking for your help reducing the amount of pet waste that enters our storm drains. Pet waste is one of the leading contributors to E. coli in our stormwater runoff, reducing the water quality.

During a rain event, pet waste from lawns, dog parks, and walking trails washes into our storm drains and is untreated in our rivers, creeks, and washes. A United States Geological Services (USGS) study has shown that bacteria associated with pet waste have been the source of approximately one-quarter of the bacteria in samples collected from local waterways.

### **How You Can Help:**

- When walking your pet, carry disposable bags, pick up your dog's waste, and dispose of it properly.
- Pick up pet waste from your yard. It is not a fertilizer.
- You can bury your pest waste in your yard. Ensure it's at least 12 inches deep and covered with soil so it can decompose slowly. Do not bury pet waste near any gardens that grow human consumable foods.
- Some city parks and walking trails provide pet waste disposal stations containing disposal bags and containers to put the bags in.



## WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

An illicit discharge is any discharge into the city’s storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Stormwater is water that comes from precipitation, ice, and snow melt. This water flows into our creeks, rivers, washes, and other untreated exposed soils. Stormwater runoff picks up many pollutants like automotive fluids, litter, chemicals, human waste, pet waste, and other sediments that enter the City of Phoenix’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The City’s MS4 system has many parts that include catch basins, streets, retention, and detention basins, as well as other city structures that assist in conveying stormwater to prevent flooding. The public must understand that the City’s MS4 is separate from the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary sewer system is wastewater that is transferred from either a home or business to a treatment plant. Stormwater, on the other hand, enters the City’s MS4 and has no treatment process and goes untreated as it enters our bodies of water, retention, and detention basins and will percolate into our groundwater.

### How Can You Help:

- The public can help the City of Phoenix reduce the quantity of pollutants that enter our stormwater system and help protect the water quality by following the suggestions below:
- Remember, only rain in the storm drain.
- Never dump anything into the city’s storm drain system.

- Pick up your pet waste on your lawn or public designated pet play areas.
- Place litter into proper receptacles.
- Recycle automotive fluids properly after performing maintenance on your vehicles.
- Report illegal dumping immediately.

---

## **LABORATORY PREPARES FOR FIFTH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE**

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The sampling and analysis for the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) will begin next year and the City of Phoenix Water Services Laboratory is ready to participate. Over the last 18 months, our analysts have been conducting research, developing methods, and learning how to use our Triple Quadrupole Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) instrumentation for the project. We have recently been approved for all three methods required by UCMR5. EPA 533 and EPA 537.1 will test for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), which are contaminants becoming very well known in media over recent months. PFAS can be found in items like firefighting foams, waterproof clothing, non-stick cookware and even food wrappers. Another contaminant that will be analyzed is Lithium by EPA 200.7. Lithium is an emerging environmental contaminant due to the now commonly used Li-ion batteries in many households' electronic items. ESD will be responsible for the sampling and analysis from our water system's EPDS locations over 12 consecutive months beginning in January 2023.

---

## **ESD TO THE RESCUE**

The ESD Stormwater staff received a call from a resident about a dog trapped in a storm catch basin approximately three feet below the sidewalk. A stuck manhole cover restricted access to the inside of the storm catch basin. The inspectors could dislodge the cover to retrieve the trapped puppy safely. The puppy seemed happy to be freed from the storm catch basin. He was alert and in good health. Happy ending, he was adopted shortly afterward and named Stormy.



# EVENTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Know your pipe type? Look for the **Lead and Copper Rule Revision Website** to be published **January 2023**.
- Keep your eye out for the **Annual Stormwater Awareness Survey** coming out **January 2023**.
- Join us to celebrate **Stormwater Awareness Week on Jan. 23 to 29, 2023** more info at [phoenix.gov/stormwater](https://phoenix.gov/stormwater) .
- Sign up to attend the **Stormwater Awareness Week Virtual Workshop on Jan. 25, 2023**. Register [here](#) to participate.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION - WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Website: [phoenix.gov/esd](http://phoenix.gov/esd)

If you have questions or would like additional information, you can contact ESD at:

[ask.water@phoenix.gov](mailto:ask.water@phoenix.gov)

(602) 262-1859

**Clogged Storm drains:**

(602) 262-6441

**Drinking Water Compliance:**

(602) 262-5012

**Stormwater:**

(602) 256-3190

## CITY OF PHOENIX WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

QUALITY. RELIABILITY. VALUE.

   /PHXWATER | PHOENIX.GOV/WATER

This email contains information about the City of Phoenix Water Services Department Environmental Services Division. You received this email because you subscribed to our email newsletter, but are free to adjust your subscription at any time.

[Unsubscribe from this email list](#)

This email was sent by Environmental Services Division at 200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85003.

[Unsubscribe or update your email preferences](#)